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Borough of Dartford.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1938.

T. FARTHING,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

Annual Report for 1938 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,

31st May, 1939.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

As in previous years, I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin).—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.

*DR. MARIE L. P. CRAWFORD, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A.—Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, late Assistant Medical Officer, Alexandra Hospital, Swanley.

*W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.—Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.

T. PYKE.—Assistant Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector).

A. H. NEWPORT.—Assistant Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector).

*MISS A. A. BRIMBLE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.

*MISS B. HOATHER.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS E. SORRELL.—Clerk to Department.

* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1937) ...	35,680
Population (Census, 1931)	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	9,211
Rateable Value	£84,231
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,077

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,234 statute acres.

The centre and eastern parts of the district are mainly industrial, whilst the western portion near the Heath is residential and suburban in character with a large number of residents whose business is outside the Borough.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District :—

London County Council Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.
 London County Mental Hospital.
 Kent County Council, The County Hospital.
 St. Vincent's Industrial School.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are :—

Engineering.	Silk Printing.
Paper Making.	Flour Milling.
Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.	

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

Separate figures with regard to unemployment in the Borough of Dartford are not available. The area served by the Dartford Employment Exchange comprises Dartford Borough, Crayford Urban District and Dartford Rural District. I am informed by the manager that the number of persons registered as unemployed during the year 1938 varied as follows :—

Number registered as unemployed.		Percentage of insured persons in area.
January	907	4.0
June	653	2.8
December	1,212	4.8

OPEN SPACES.

The District is provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include :—

Dartford Heath	340 acres.
Central Park	27 acres.
Hesketh Park	10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all the above.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1938.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	309	297	606
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	11	9	20
						320	306	626
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population						...	...	17.54
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period						...	...	15.1
Still Births.—	Number of still births during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
	Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	35.44
						Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	183	135	318
	Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.91
	Death Rate for England and Wales for the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6
	Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-							
	From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	None
	Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	None
Infantile Mortality.						Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate						16	11	27
Illegitimate						1	1	2
						17	12	29
Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births						...	...	46.32
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1938						...	...	53

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	13	1	...	1	15	6	2	2	4	29
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(not tuberculous)		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)		...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	5
Enteritis		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Congenital malformation		2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth		6	1	...	...	7	1	...	...	...	8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes		4	...	...	1	5	...	...	2	3	10
Totals		13	1	...	1	15	6	2	2	4	29

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1937-1938.

Causes of Death.	1937.		1938.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Female
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...
2. Measles. ... ..	...	...	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...
4. Whooping Cough. ... ..	...	...	1	2
5. Diphtheria. ... ..	...	1	...	1
6. Influenza.	3	5	1	...
7. Encephalitis lethargica. ... ..	...	...	...	...
8. Cerebro-spinal fever. ... ..	...	1	...	...
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	14	7	17	7
10. Other tuberculous diseases.	1	...	1	4
11. Syphilis. ... ..	...	...	...	...
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.	2	...	...	...
13. Cancer, malignant disease.	17	20	31	28
14. Diabetes. ... ..	...	4	1	2
15. Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	10	5	9	6
16. Heart disease.	38	44	49	36
17. Aneurism.	3	...	2	...
18. Other circulatory diseases.	13	16	7	2
19. Bronchitis.	6	5	3	4
20. Pneumonia (all forms).	10	9	15	4
21. Other respiratory diseases.	4	...	2	1
22. Peptic ulcer.	4	...	2	...
23. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).	3	3	2	1
24. Appendicitis. ... ..	...	...	...	1
25. Cirrhosis of liver. ... ..	...	...	...	...
26. Other diseases of liver, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	1
27. Other digestive diseases.	5	3	5	1
28. Acute and chronic nephritis.	2	...	3	3
29. Puerperal sepsis. ... ..	...	...	...	...
30. Other puerperal causes. ... ..	...	3	...	...
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malform- ations, etc.	7	4	8	7
32. Senility.	1	3	...	6
33. Suicide.	1	1	1	...
34. Other violence.	9	4	8	7
35. Other defined diseases.	13	8	14	10
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...
Totals	166	146	183	135

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1934—1938.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure).	31,440	31,870	33,040	34,510	35,680
Births	436	473	445	530	626
Birth Rate	13.86	14.84	13.46	15.35	17.54
Still-births	14	20	14	20	23
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.1
Deaths	288	274	317	312	318
Death Rate	9.16	8.6	9.59	9.04	8.91
Death Rate (England & Wales)	11.8	11.7	12.1	12.4	11.6
Deaths of infants under 1 year	31	20	26	26	29
Infantile Death Rate	71.1	42.07	58.41	49.05	46.32
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales).	59	57	59	58	53

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Corporation make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Medical Officer of Health.

(B) MIDWIVES.

The Kent County Council is the controlling authority for Midwives in the Borough and also under the Midwives Act, 1936. They have three salaried midwives available for this district.

In addition there are two other midwives practising in the Borough.

There is close co-operation between the County Council and the Borough Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

(C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Market Street.	Maintained by the Council.
School Clinic, King Edward Avenue	} Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street	
Venereal Clinic, The County Hospital	

In connection with the County Hospital there are Ophthalmic, Orthopædic, Neurological, X-Ray, Electrical, Urological, and Dental Clinics available for residents in the area of the Dartford Public Assistance Committee as out-patients.

Also at the Livingstone Hospital there are X-Ray and Electrical Clinics.

(D) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The following hospitals are situated in the district and are available for the residents. In addition to these, the facilities offered by the London hospitals, which are within a reasonable distance, are used by the inhabitants.

1. The County Hospital, West Hill, for General Purposes, under the management of Kent County Council (Public Assistance Committee), available for persons resident in the area under the control of the Public Assistance Committee and by private patients from the same area. Extensions of this Hospital were commenced in 1937 and are still in progress.

2. Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, for General Purposes, supported by Voluntary Contributions under the management of a voluntary committee, available for persons resident in the Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural Districts. During the year, the new block to accommodate Maternity cases was completed and opened.

3. Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital, Bow Arrow Lane (for Infectious Diseases) under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee, available for persons resident in Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, Bexley Urban District, Crayford Urban District, and Swanscombe Urban District.

The total accommodation for patients is 140 beds. During the year new gate lodges with controlled entrance gates were completed.

Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the London County Council Small Pox Hospital, Joyce Green, by agreement with the London County Council.

(E) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(i). INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Dartford Joint Hospital Committee maintain two ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease from their homes to the hospital.

(ii). GENERAL CASES.—The local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to do very useful work. They maintain two motor ambulances which are available for accidents day and night and the removal of sick persons to local or London hospitals.

During the year 1938, the following cases were dealt with by ambulances:—

First Aid cases (of which 113 were road accidents).....	243
Sick removals to local hospitals	372
Sick removals to London hospitals and other places	114

The charges made for the use of the ambulances are as follows:—

To local hospitals	5/-
To London hospitals and other removals outside the District 1/- per mile (both journeys) with special terms for distances over 100 miles.	

There is also a scheme whereby subscribers of a minimum of 1/- per year are entitled to the free use of the ambulances for removals to local hospitals, etc., and at 6d. per mile for longer journeys. H.S.A. vouchers are also accepted in payment.

First aid duties are also carried out by members of the division at the local Cinemas, Football Grounds, etc., and road service during the summer months.

The ambulances of the Kent County Council Public Assistance Committee are also available, on payment of the scale of charges fixed by the Council, for the removal of patients within and outside the District.

The ambulance services in the area are quite adequate for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

The ambulance services for non-infectious cases are not under the direct control of the Corporation. There is no official co-ordination between the Corporation and the ambulance services of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Public Assistance Committee, but there is close co-operation which is found to work quite well in practice.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis:—

Diphtheria swabs	142
Tuberculosis sputa	167
Typhoid, including Widal test	4
Other Pathological Specimens	4
Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Samples of Pasteurised Milk	10
Samples of Milk for T.B.	11
Samples of Water from private wells	13
Do. do. M.W.B. mains	5
Samples of Food, etc., re Food Poisoning	4

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II, III and V.
Adopted 2nd January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890
Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22 and 33 in Part II	}	Adopted
Whole of Part VI		2nd April, 1909
Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part VII	}	Adopted
Section 90 in Part VIII		19th March, 1909.
Section 95 in Part X		Adopted 4th Jan., 1913

Public Health Act, 1925. Part II adopted 2nd December, 1925.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

BYE-LAWS.

The Corporation have Bye-laws relating to the following :—

- Common Lodging Houses.
- Good Rule and Government.
- Houses Let in Lodgings (Housing Act, 1925).
- Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).
- Nuisances.
- Offensive Trades.
- Removal of Offensive Matter.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Tents, Vans and Sheds.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

With the exception of isolated houses, the whole of the houses are connected to the Metropolitan Water Board's mains.

The supply is from chalk wells at Wilmington, Darenth, Southfleet and Green Street Green. These wells are sampled on every working day and give good bacteriological and chemical results. Southfleet and Green Street Green wells are protected by chloramination and standby chloramine equipment is held for immediate application at the other wells should any untoward condition become apparent. In addition, periodical samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector. All samples taken during the year have been quite satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution have been noticed or dealt with during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following :—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

Urinal at East Hill.

Open air Swimming Baths in Burnham Road.

The Corporation are also considering the erection of Public Conveniences for both sexes in the vicinity of the Car Park in Market Street.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1937 :—

	1937	1938
Men	9,944	11,013
Boys	375	427
Women	2,764	2,635
Girls	109	204
TOTAL ..	13,192	14,279

The open-air Swimming Bath in Burnham Road has a continuous heating and chlorination plant. Samples of the water are taken from time to time and show that the water is maintained in a very satisfactory state. The enlargement and re-construction of this Bath and the sanitary accommodation in connection therewith was completed during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford.

There are only 82 houses, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. Over 99% of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

The only extensions of sewers that have been carried out during the year have been those in connection with the various building estates being developed in the Borough.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The system is a water carriage one. In the more rural portions of the area, where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned :—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	...	64
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	18

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

SCAVENGING.

House refuse is collected weekly except in the centre of the town, where the collection is twice weekly.

The collection is almost entirely by motor vehicles. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Heath Lane tip. An incinerator is provided for the disposal of condemned meat, etc.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

During the year the following steps have been taken by the Health Department and the Housing Superintendent with regard to the eradication of bed bugs.

No. of Council houses found to be infested	...	...	...	42
" " " " disinfested	...	...	...	42
No. of other houses found to be infested	...	...	...	25
" " " " disinfested by Council	...	...	...	3
" " " " " by Owners or tenants after advice given by Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	22

Slight infestations are sprayed with Zaldecide, bad infestations are fumigated either with "Cimex" or Lawes Chemical Blocks.

All prospective tenants' furniture and effects are inspected before they are allowed to move into a Council house. If vermin are discovered, the furniture is treated at the house being vacated; in the new Council house; or, in bad cases, the furniture is treated in both houses.

The disinfestation is carried out by the Council's own men, and not by a contractor.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are two Central and nine Junior schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water supply and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. No alterations or extensions were carried out during the year.

PROPAGANDA.

The department co-operated in the National Health Campaign and posters were exhibited and leaflets distributed in connection therewith.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	}	14 Bungalows for Aged Persons
					6 Shops with living accommodation
(ii)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	}
					2 Flats

In addition 10 single houses have been converted into 21 flats.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made. Houses 265. Inspections	896
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and the number of inspections made. Houses 93. Inspections	330
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses under paragraph 2 (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	92

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	326
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	None
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	None
	(b) By local authority in default of Owners ...	None
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	8
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	None
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(2)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	23

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit	None

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Overcrowding).

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	14
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	15
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein Adults	93
Children	34
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	15
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases: Adults ...	82
Children	34

The following numbers of houses have been represented as unfit since the Housing Act, 1930, came into force :—

1930	.. ..	11 houses.
1931	.. ..	51 houses.
1932	.. ..	4 houses.
1933	.. ..	18 houses.
1935	.. ..	2 houses.
1937	.. ..	27 houses.

The following table shows the result of such action during the year :—

Premises.	No. of Houses	Date of Representation.	Action taken.	Remarks.
Manor Place 9.	1	2— 8—33	Demolition Order made 4—10—33.	Further action deferred.
Hadlow Place. Lowfield Street 1 to 7.	7	9—11—33	Demolition Order made 12—3—34.	Appeal lodged and heard June, 1934. Order confirmed. Houses void.
Darenth Road. 2 to 54.	27	24— 2—37	Demolition Order made 7—5—37.	2 to 38 and 48 to 54 demolished.

In addition to the houses set out in the table, 93 houses have been inspected during the year under the Housing Act, and notices regarding repairs, etc., have been served with regard thereto.

The following table shows the number of new houses built during the past ten years :—

				Built by Council.	Private Enterprise	Total
1929	...	...	...	—	209	209
1930	...	...	...	14	266	280
1931	...	...	...	76	232	308
1932	...	...	...	181	170	351
1933	...	...	...	112	408	520
1934	...	...	...	—	499	499
1935	...	...	...	140	401	541
1936	...	...	...	20	635	655
1937	...	...	...	—	550	550
1938	...	...	...	20	497	517
Totals				563	3867	4430

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The taking of samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Kent County Council, and the County Council being also the Authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts carries out the work under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences have been granted by the Corporation :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—

Bottlers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3

Pasteurised Milk—

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	6

Fourteen samples of Graded milks were taken during the year.

The examination of Graded milks and other bacteriological work in connection with food is carried out by the Kent County Council at the County Bacteriological Laboratory.

No legal action has had to be taken under the Meat Regulations, 1924. There is one registered slaughterhouse in the district, and the notification of the times of slaughtering has been very satisfactory. 227 inspections have been made during the year.

The amount of unsound food destroyed during the year was 2 tons, 15 cwts., 26 lbs., particulars of which are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Small-pox were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified (exclusive of Institutional cases) was 46, a higher number than the three preceding years.

The incidence was spread over the whole year and the cases occurred in the following wards of the Borough:—

Brent Ward	7 cases.
Heath Ward	11 "
Highfield Ward	7 "
Priory Ward	2 "
St. Alban's Ward	6 "
Town Ward	13 "

With the exception of one case, the whole of the patients were removed to hospital.

Facilities for immunisation have been provided at the Public Health Department since 1935. The prophylactic used in Toxoid-Antitoxin-Floccules (Suspension).

The number of children immunised during the year was:—

At Public Health Department.	Pre-school children	4
	School children	4
At St. Vincent's Home Industrial School		33

All new boys received into this school are immunised on admission.

Contacts with cases notified, and also children referred to the Department by the school teachers, are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified (exclusive of Institutional cases) was 71, which was higher than the two preceding years but below the average of the past five years.

The incidence of the disease was distributed evenly throughout the year and over the whole of the Borough as follows:—

Brent Ward	11 cases.
Heath Ward	10 "
Highfield Ward	19 "
Priory Ward	7 "
St. Alban's Ward	13 "
Town Ward	11 "

29 cases were nursed at home and 42 were removed to hospital. There were two return cases during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases were notified during the year. There was no association between the two cases.

MEASLES.

Measles is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, but the cases amongst children of school age are notified to the Department by the Head Teachers of Schools.

There was no particular incidence of the disease during the year.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases are admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer was 59, being 18.55 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with :—

1937	...	37 deaths	11.217 per cent. of total deaths.
1936	...	48 "	14.19 " " " "
1935	...	48 "	17.39 " " " "
1934	...	34 "	11.8 " " " "
1933	...	33 "	11.66 " " " "
1932	...	49 "	17.3 " " " "

INFLUENZA.

The incidence of influenza was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious diseases to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfection is also carried out after death from tuberculosis and on removal to hospital or a sanatorium and if requested after death from cancer.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	46	1	1	1	2	3	8	13	5	8	4	...	...
Scarlet Fever	71	...	...	5	2	4	36	13	1	5	4	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	14	1	2	2	...	...	3	1	1	1	...	3	...
Erysipelas	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	8	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	11	...	...	1	1	...	6	2	...	1	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	29	1	2	2	...	1	8	12	3	2	2	2	4
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	...
Pneumonia	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Dysentery	26	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	14	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	19	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	6
Measles	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Corporation are co-operating with the Kent County Council in their scheme under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention and treatment of blindness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
1—5	1	....	1	....	1	....	....	....
5—10	1	....	....	2	....	....	....	....
10—15	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
15—20	2	4	....	1	1	....	....	2
20—25	3	2	....	3	2	2	....	1
25—35	7	4	....	....	4	3	....	....
35—45	4	1	....	....	4	2	....	....
45—55	4	2	....	....	3	....	1	....
55—65	1	1	1	....	2	....	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
Totals	24	14	3	8	17	7	1	4

29 of the 49 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 15 cases notified previous to 1938 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was received with regard to all the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number on Register at commencement of Year	126	61	28	29	244
Number on Register at end of Year	135	65	26	34	260

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

(a) Children attending at beginning of 1938, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Monday	11	20	21	17	25	1	—	—	95
Tuesday	2	28	18	18	41	4	—	—	111
Thursday	—	—	1	—	6	51	46	19	123
Friday	15	26	20	13	29	—	—	—	103
Totals	28	74	60	48	101	56	46	19	432

(b) New entrants, ages at entry :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Monday	116	13	11	5	12	—	1	—	158
Tuesday	128	20	5	3	6	—	1	—	163
Thursday	—	2	1	1	16	24	13	8	65
Friday	119	23	12	5	7	—	—	1	167
Totals	363	58	29	14	41	24	15	9	553

(c) Children attending at beginning of 1939, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Monday	9	27	24	16	35	5	1	—	117
Tuesday	12	25	25	26	41	1	—	—	130
Thursday	—	—	—	—	18	39	32	26	115
Friday	19	24	24	14	30	—	—	—	111
Totals	40	76	73	56	124	45	33	26	473

Total attendances of mothers, 11,691.

Of the number of infants registered 363 were under the age of three months on registration.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on register during year	...	...	...	...	299
Number of new cases	...	...	...	...	266
Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	51
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	878
Average attendance per clinic	...	...	...	...	17.215

The particulars of the 266 new cases who attended the Clinic during the year 1938 were as follows:—

Normal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Abnormal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Not pregnant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Post natal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

Conditions requiring treatment among normal cases:—

Varicose veins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Caries and pyorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Anæmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Oedema of legs following injection for varicose veins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Analysis of abnormal cases:—

Contracted pelvis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Malpresentations:—								
Breech	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Breech with extended legs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Transverse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Footling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Persistent occipito posterior	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Twins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Carneous mole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retroversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pre-eclampsia (2 with foetal death)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hydramnios	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ante partum hæmorrhage (Placenta Prævia)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fibroids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pruritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cystitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature delivery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Abortion (one fatal)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

This Clinic was held monthly during the year. 36 new cases received advice and 110 attendances were made. Every care is taken to see that the objects of the Clinic are fulfilled.

MATERNITY HOME.

Negotiations took place during the year for the admission of cases into the County Hospital and the Livingstone Hospital and for the necessary financial assistance to be given in necessitous cases. The scheme will come into operation in 1939.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Arrangements have been made for:—

- (a) The admission of cases requiring hospital treatment into the Isolation Hospital of the Joint Hospital Committee at Bow Arrow Lane and into the North Western Hospital of the London County Council.
- (b) The services of an obstetric consultant when required.
- (c) The Dartford District Nursing Association to undertake home nursing where hospital treatment is not necessary.

Seven cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and two cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year. The two cases of Puerperal Fever and two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified from the County Hospital and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia from the Livingstone Hospital.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

TREATMENT OF SQUINT.

Arrangements are in force for the treatment of squint in children under school age by the School Ophthalmic Surgeon. Two cases were referred for treatment during the year.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

During the year nine children received treatment under the Kent County Council scheme for the orthopædic treatment of children under school age.

DENTAL TREATMENT TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

One child and six mothers were granted assistance in accordance with the Council's Scheme for dental treatment during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year. One case was notified from the County Hospital and this child became totally blind.

Children requiring treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum can be received into St. Margaret's Hospital by arrangement with the London County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.

No action has had to be taken with regard to cases of Tuberculosis in persons connected with the milk trade.

SECTION 172, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No action has been taken during the year with regard to compulsory removal of cases of Tuberculosis under this section.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Kent County Council is the Authority dealing with this group of diseases. A local Clinic is held by them at The County Hospital.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1938 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows :—

10,286 pints free.
1,126 pints half price.
693 lbs. dried milk free.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The main object of the sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with this subject is to secure that any child under nine years of age maintained “for reward” shall be notified to the Local Authority in order that supervision of the home conditions and the health of the child can be carried out.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carries out the duties of Infant Protection Officer.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year	...	...	...	313
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year	...	...	...	17
Number of foster children on register at end of year	...	...	...	24

HOME VISITATION.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year ;

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	567
Number of visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	2,143
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	1,276
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	3,572
Total visits	...	...	...	5,715

In addition to these visits the following have been paid :—

Ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Death enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

The attendance of the Voluntary Workers at the Clinic has been very regular and the recording of the registers has been very helpful in compiling the statistics for this report. I wish to tender to them my thanks for this work and for their help in weighing the children. They have also organised very successful social events which have been very much appreciated by the mothers.

Appended hereto are the following :—

- (1). Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2). Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1938 :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
" " (other infectious diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	167

In addition to the above, 3 disinfections of verminous houses were carried out apart from those done by the Housing Superintendent.

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Number of houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	...	93
Notices re defects served on Owners :—				
Preliminary—Served 92 : Complied with	...	...	...	67
Statutory—Served 1 : Complied with	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Overcrowding).

Cases of Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
New cases found during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses measured	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Permitted numbers supplied to owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
Permitted number or extract of Act not inserted in rent book, dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Work in connection with the prevention of overcrowding has necessitated 120 inspections and re-inspections during the year.

ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	228 : complied with	...	...	226
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	5 : complied with	...	...	7

COMPLAINTS.

314 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

DRAINAGE WORK.

Number of Drains tested by water—	New Buildings	...	...	...	1452
" " " " " " "	Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	78
" " " " " " "	under notice	...	...	...	518
" " " " " " "	smoke—New Buildings	...	...	...	45
" " " " " " "	Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	2093
" " " " " " "	under notice	...	...	...	116
Total number of drains tested during year	...	...	...	...
Number of drains cleared by the Department	...	...	...	...

Of the drains cleared by the department 8 were in connection with the Council houses and various other properties owned by the Corporation.

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	None
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	227

Licences were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act to seven slaughtermen during the year.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1926

Registered Purveyors (Wholesale)	...	...	...	...	...	6
(Retail)	...	...	...	...	...	48
" (Including 20 dealers registered for the sale of sterilised milk in unopened bottles)						

The premises of 15 of the Registered Purveyors are situated outside the Borough.

Number of Cowsheds	...	5	...	Inspections	...	44
Number of Dairies	...	9	...	Inspections	...	81
Number of Milkshops	...	3	...	Inspections	...	7
Number of contraventions of the Order dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	3

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following licences have been granted by the Corporation:—

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Bottlers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3

PASTEURISED MILK.

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	6

SAMPLES OF MILK.

During the year 14 samples of Graded Milk were taken (4 Tuberculin tested and 10 Pasteurised). All samples complied with the prescribed conditions.

Ten samples of milk were taken for the detection of tuberculosis and all were negative.

The department has co-operated with the Kent County Council in ensuring a proper milk supply to the local schools.

The samples taken at the schools are taken by the County Council's own officers and of 72 samples taken only 3 failed to comply with the prescribed bacterial count.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Meat and other Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	278
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections	...	...	...	...	108
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	92
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	44

UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

The total quantity of unsound food destroyed during the year was 2 tons 15cwts. 26lbs. made up as follows:—

BEEF.—1 ton 4cwt. 3qrs. 7lbs. (including 2 carcasses).

PORK.—11cwt. 2qrs. 17lbs. (including 12 carcasses and 11 heads).

ORGANS.—12cwt. 3qrs. 11lbs. (including 12 beast livers, 37 pigs' plucks and 1 sheep's pluck).

FISH.—2cwt. 3qrs. 12lbs.

RABBITS.—1qr. 23lbs.

VEGETABLES.—2cwt.

TINNED GOODS.—2qrs. 12lbs. (8 tins).

Over 10cwt. of the pork and offal was destroyed due to the slaughtering of a large part of the pigs at the Joyce Green Hospital following an outbreak of suspected Swine Fever.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed... ..	74	5	42	320	392
Number inspected	74	5	42	315	392
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	2	1	40
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis... ..	17·56	0	4·4	·31	13·2
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	12
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tubercu- losis	4·0	20·0	—	—	3·06

No seizures of food were made during the year. The food destroyed was surrendered on request after inspection.

The Department co-operates with the Mutual Insurance Schemes of the Dartford, Sevenoaks and Rochester Cattle Markets which has, as in previous years,

been of great assistance in dealing with the home-killed meat supply of the district. Under these schemes, on the payment of a premium by both buyer and seller compensation is granted, on the certificate of the Sanitary Inspector, for diseased carcasses or portions of carcasses.

LODGING HOUSES ETC.

Number of Common Lodging Houses on Register	1
Number of Houses let in lodgings on Register	2
Inspections	27

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of inspections	236
Number of re-inspections	333

Notices were served regarding contraventions. Particulars of these are set out in the following table:—

	Contraventions Found.	Complied With.
Statutory forms not exhibited	9	13
Young persons hours	1	1
Sanitary accommodation: Insufficient	1	1
Defects in	1	2
Washing facilities insufficient	1	1
Other matters	1	1

CAMPING SITES.

Licences have been granted by the Corporation with regard to two camps. These camps are inspected regularly and no contraventions have been noted. The maximum number of campers during 1938 was 100.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register	14
Eleven of these are subject to annual renewal of permission.	
Number of Rag and Bone Dealers	3
One is subject to annual renewal.	
„ „ Tanyards	1
„ „ Knackers' Yards	1
„ „ Inspections	134

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stableyards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected	104
Inspections re Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye-Laws	29
Inspections of Cinemas	4
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress	1,713

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year 18 complaints were investigated and inspections were made of premises, etc. Advice is given with regard to dealing with these pests and in certain cases poison baits are laid down with good results. Where considered necessary the drains of the premises are smoke-tested and any defects dealt with. This was done in 11 cases.

Four warning letters were sent and complied with during the year.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

During the year 24 observations have been taken of the smoke emitted by the chimneys in the various works. One black smoke nuisance and two other smoke nuisances were dealt with during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

A dairyman was summoned for bottling milk in the street contrary to the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and a fine of £2 and costs was imposed.

NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
House or part of house cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Lighting or Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Broken sash cords replaced	..	...	...	...	...	...	30
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Gulley fenders repaired or renewed...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drains re-constructed (No. of houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
New w.c.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective ashbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	59

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Obedient Servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

(In accordance with the Home Office Schedule).

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	99	6	—
Factories without mechanical power	73	5	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises).	24	1	—
Total	196	12	—

† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	1	1	...	...
Sanitary conveniences { (Insufficient	1	1	...	...
{ Unsuitable or defective	5	3	...	...
{ Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences	6	5	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total	16	13	...	...

OUTWORKERS.

No action has been necessary during the year with regard to outwork in improper premises or with regard to infectious disease.

No. of lists received, 9.

No. of inspections, 10.